

REGISTER OF CLASSIFICATION DECISIONS

Date of entry in Register:	17 February 2003
Name of applicant/court:	Brigitte Schütte
Applicant to the Labelling Body:	Not Applicable
Title of Publication:	Achtung! Pavlova
Other Known Title(s):	Achtung Pavlova
Director(s):	Not Applicable
Producer(s):	Not Applicable
Publisher:	Reed Publishing (NZ) Ltd
Author(s):	Stu Duval
Format:	Book
Country of Origin:	New Zealand
Language(s):	English

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Feature: Running Time:
Trailers: Running Time:
Total Running Time:

Excision/Alteration: Not Applicable.

Reason(s) for Excision:

Not Applicable.

Classification Decision:

Unrestricted.

Display Conditions:

Not Applicable.

Descriptive Note:

Not Applicable.

Direction to issue a label has been given on: **Not Applicable.**

SUMMARY OF THE REASONS FOR DECISION:

The book *Achtung! Pavlova* is classified as:

Unrestricted.

The book was written as a humorous tale for New Zealand children. It is set during WWII and tells the story of a German U-boat, sent to New Zealand to bring the creator of the pavlova back to Germany for Hitler's birthday. The book was submitted by a member of the public concerned that the book trivialises the real suffering that occurred during the war, and reinforces outmoded stereotypes of Germans as "evil Nazis" and, to a lesser extent, Japanese as evil "Japs" and "Nips".

The Classification Office agrees that the book trivialises the Nazi period of German history, in a manner that will be familiar to many from the television series *Hogan's Heroes*. The plot involves military action, but violence takes place in a farcical context and is usually accompanied by humorous detail. Older readers may find the book's simplistic and stereotyped approach offensive and tasteless. However, young people are likely to identify with the book's "Kiwi" characters and to enjoy the book as an exciting yarn. The Office considers that young readers are capable of recognising the book's characters as humorous stereotypes. Further, today's young people have sufficient access to portrayals of modern Germany and Japan to be able to recognise that the language and characterisation of *Achtung! Pavlova* belong to a different historical era.

The Classification Office is constrained by legislation to limit the freedom of expression only where the availability of a publication is likely to be injurious to the public good. Having considered the issues involved, the Office concludes that there is little evidence that such injury is likely. Given these considerations, to limit the availability of the book would be neither reasonable nor demonstrably justifiable in a free and democratic society.

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